

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

S E C R E T STATE 110918

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: NATOMIN: RESTRUCTURING OF FORMAT

REF: USNATO 2897

1. IN LIGHT REFTTEL, WE WISH TO PURSUE FURTHER EFFORTS
TO ACHIEVE EARLY AGREEMENT ON FORMAT FOR FORTHCOMING NAC
MINISTERIAL MEETING.

2. WITH REGARD TO THE CIRCULATING OR READING OF GENERAL
STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS, YOU SHOULD INFORM SYG LUNS AND
PERMREPS THE SECRETARY DOES NOT PLAN TO MAKE OR
CIRCULATE IN ADVANCE A GENERAL STATEMENT. WE AGREE
WITH SUGGESTION PARA 11 REFTTEL THAT YOU CONTINUE TO
STRESS OUR PREFERENCE THAT GENERAL STATEMENTS FOLLOW
CONCLUSION OF DISCUSSION ON SEPARATE AGENDA ITEMS. WE

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ALSO AGREE WITH YOUR VIEW THAT MINISTERS SHOULD HAVE

THE FLEXIBILITY TO PURSUE THEIR OWN PREFERENCES, AND THAT ALL SHOULD NOT BE BOUND TO FOLLOW THE SAME PROCEDURE. OUR AIM IS TO STIMULATE FRANK DISCUSSION, AND THIS CANNOT BE REALIZED IF MINISTERS ARE ASKED TO FOLLOW PROCEDURES WHICH MAKES SOME OF THEM UNCOMFORTABLE. WORKING TOGETHER WITH LUNS, AND OTHER DELEGATIONS AS APPROPRIATE, WE BELIEVE THAT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DEVELOP A FLEXIBLE APPROACH THAT IS GENERALLY SATISFACTORY TO ALL, BUT THAT PROGRESSES IN DIRECTION OF MORE

STRUCTURED SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGES.

3. CONCERNING THE HOUR-LONG SPECIAL SESSION OF MINISTERS PLUS PERMREPS TO BE HELD POSSIBLY BEFORE REGULAR MEETING CONVENES ON JUNE 18, YOU SHOULD INFORM SYG LUNS AND PERMREPS THAT THE SECRETARY WISHES TO USE THE OCCASION OF THIS PRIVATE MEETING TO DISCUSS, INTER ALIA, THE FORTHCOMING MEETING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV.

4. FURTHER EXCHANGES ON PROCEDURAL ASPECTS AMONG LUNS AND THE PERMREPS SHOULD BE REPORTED PROMPTLY SO THAT WE MAY PROVIDE FURTHER GUIDANCE IN THE LIGHT OF DEVELOPING ALLIED VIEWS. BEGIN FYI. IN ANY CASE, YOU SHOULD AVOID SITUATION IN WHICH WE ARE ISOLATED ON THESE ISSUES BEFORE WE HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE FURTHER GUIDANCE. END FYI.

RUSH

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